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## Functional diseases, organ diseases

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It is quite difficult for a neophyte to understand the difference between the functional and organ disease. Yet it is primordial. One speaks of an **organ disease** when **an organ of the body is anatomically affected**: a fracture, a ulcer, a tumour, a compression of an artery nerve, etc... It is a pathology which we can detect during the clinical examination or by the help of complementary examinations like radiography, echography, scan, MRI, etc.. One can localise and therefore treat the lesion. On the other hand we speak of a **functional disease** in case when **no visible lesion is present but the organ does not function correctly**. This situation is the case in 80% of consultations.

In order to understand well what is an organ and its function, let us take an example.

We can judge the quality of a piano in two ways.

First approach is to make an analysis of measurable characteristics: the piano is black, 2 metres long, has a weight of 300 kg, the wood is varnished, the keys are made of ivory. We can continue our exploration by taking pictures of the harmony table and by taking samples of the wood in order to know if any parasites are present. We can also do a scan of the piano and a MRI followed by echography.

The second approach is just to take a chair and to play. It will give us an idea on the function of the piano. What kind of sound is created? Is the tonality round, sharp, smooth or metallic? Is the piano well equilibrated in its high and low notes? Are the keys hard or smooth? To sum up, is it a good piano or not?

The comparison of the piano with the human body is with no doubt exaggerated but it explains well the concept of functional disease. Some tired, exhausted, sleepless, constantly nibbling patients, with pain everywhere, headaches, stomach pain, hair loss, etc. contact their medical doctors, who affronted with this worrying picture prescribe a complete analysis, which after all does not show any anomaly. In fact, these patients do not have any organ disease but some of their organs do not function well. Here to blame the neuro-vegetative system, responsible to make the organs « function ». **Claude Bernard** insisted on the importance of the neuro-vegetative system when saying **«functional pathology is a precursor of all organ disease »**.

At the university taught medical science is powerless when confronted with these diseases and its only weapon is the prescription of drugs, which of course will diminish the complaint of the patient but will not resolve the disorder. In stead of repairing the malfunction, the

alarm signal is switched off on the panel board when prescribing antidepressant, anxiolytic, or neuroleptic drugs. Following the idea: no perception of the alarm signal - no disorder.

Certain medical reflex techniques are still very efficient on the modification and the regulation of the organ function. This is the case for acupuncture, auriculotherapy, manual medicine, massage. The positive effects of these, simple methods presenting nearly no danger can be explained by the fabulous properties of the skin. Medical doctors like **Henri Jarricot, Head, Niboyet** and of course **Paul Nogier**, understood that a bad functioning of an organ modifies the physical characteristics of the skin. **The skin is connected by innumerable nervous connections to the inner organs.** When searching for pain, surface alteration, pigmentation disorders and the disorders of the photo-perception by the help of the vascular signal (VAS) one can suspect malfunctioning of precise organs and treat them using needles, massage or any other stimulation.

**The skin is the reflection of the organs** and therefore the study of the skin reveals us precious information.

It is the principle of the reflex therapies.

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